



Lennox and Addington County Museum and Archives  
Finding Aid

## Hopkins Family fonds

L&A County Archives

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## **Hopkins Family fonds**

Hopkins Family fonds [textual record]. – 1903-1971. – 64.5 cm of textual records.

### **Biographical Sketch**

Michael Joseph (January 25, 1874-July 18, 1965) was born to James and Sarah (Flannigan) Hopkins. Lillian J. (August 4<sup>th</sup>, 1873-1949) was born to William and Jane (Mathews) Harpell. Michael and Lillian married on April 10, 1899 in Frontenac County. On June 15, 1901 their son, Michael James was born in Leeds County and would eventually die at the age of 17 in 1918. On March 20, 1905 Mary Jane Margaret was born, but she too would die at the young age of 26 in 1931. On July 19, 1908 Bridget Ann Helen and Michael Edward Champlain were born in Leeds County. A final son, Joseph was born at a later date.

Living in Rockport, Leeds County, Michael J. operated a general store from 1903-1911. On February 15, 1910 Michael purchased Lots 1 and 2 in the Village of Erinsville, Sheffield Township, Lennox and Addington County from Gertrude Ann McNeil and N.V. McNeill and commenced business as a general merchant on February 24, 1910. Michael J. operated the store until approximately 1955 when his son, Michael E. took over the business. Known as the Hopkins General store, it operated until approx. 1970-1971 when Michael sold it to Archie and Ambrose Kidd.

On May 23, 1922 Mrs. Lillian Hopkins became the official Postmistress for Erinsville, holding this position until her death in June 1949. Her son Michael Edward took over as acting Postmaster and was officially claimed as the Erinsville Postmaster on August 25, 1949, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1973. The post office was located inside the general store.

Sources used: Erinsville: In the beginning/ by W.O. Richmond, 1972 in Tamworth Tweedsmuir History; Land registry records, birth, marriage and death records, obituary of Michael J. Hopkins; Post Offices and Postmasters – Erinsville: LAC website.

### **Custodial History**

Records remained in the Hopkins family until donated to the Archives in 2004.

### **Scope and Content**

Fonds consists of the following series: Erinsville General Store, Rockport General Store, Erinsville Post Office; Erinsville Roman Catholic Church, History of Erinsville Parish Manuscript

### **Notes:**

#### ***Source of supplied title***

*Title based on contents of fonds*

***Immediate source of acquisition***

Donated to Archives in 2004 (2004.101) by a member of the Hopkins family.

***Restrictions on access***

All records subject to Access to Information and Privacy Act

***Finding aids***

*Detailed finding aid available.*

***Accruals***

*No further accruals expected.*

**Access Points:**

Erinsville, Ontario

Hopkins Family

Rockport, Ontario

General Store

Post Office

L&A County Archives

## Series Descriptions and Folder Listings

### ***Series 1: Erinsville General Store. – 1903-1971. – 25 cm of textual records.***

#### Scope and Content

The Hopkins family began operating a general store in the Village of Erinsville in 1910 until 1971 when M.E. Hopkins sold the business. Series consists of day books and ledgers listing items bought and sold at the store and to whom they were purchased by. Some of the ledger books also contain election results for Erinsville and Sheffield Township as well as a household account ledger listing items bought and sold for the Hopkins household. Includes farming, wool, seed, poultry and domestic matters. Also includes accounts for the houses at Stoco received “from the estate of Jno. Hopkins”, likely John Hopkins, 1853-1934). (John Hopkins’ wife was Martha). The business ledger of M.J. Hopkins includes some references to local events, particularly inside front cover and a brief diary of severe weather from 1949-1960 inside the back cover. Series also includes some correspondence relating to the business.

#### Notes:

##### *Source of supplied title:*

Title based on contents of series.

##### *Arrangement:*

Series arranged by archivist.

##### *Restrictions on Access:*

No restrictions on access.

#### Folder Listing:

Box	File #	Description	Dates
Series 1: Erinsville General Store			
1	1	Daybook – commences on Feb. 24, 1910 *See pg 546 in 1 <sup>st</sup> Rockport ledger*	1910
1	2	Daybook	1910-1913
1	3	Daybook	1914-1916
2	4	Daybook	1916-1921
2	5	Daybook	1921-1925
2	6	Daybook (1925-1929) and Household Ledger (1926-1941)	1925-1941
2	7	M.J. Hopkins business ledger	1935-1941
2	8	George Robertson debt	1937-1945
2	9	Correspondence and business documents	1948-1971

### ***Series 2: Rockport General Store – 1909-1911. – 6 cm of textual records.***

#### Scope and Content

Located in Leeds-Grenville County, the Hopkins Family also operated a general store in the Village of Rockport. The Series consists of one day book ledger listing patrons to the store and what they purchased.

Notes:

*Source of supplied title:*

Title based on contents of series.

*Arrangement:*

Series arranged by archivist.

*Restrictions on Access:*

No restrictions on access.

Folder Listing:

Box	File #	Description	Dates
Series 2: Rockport General Store			
1	1	Daybook (1903-1911) and ledger (1903-1938) *includes local election results for Erinsville and Sheffield, as well as Erinsville General Store ledger	1903-1938
3	1	Daybook	1909-1911

***Series 3: Hopkins Family Records. [1941-1961]. – 15 cm of textual records.***

Scope and Content

Series consists of one ledger listing accounts for the Hopkins farm in Erinsville as well as a Missale Romanum book, published by J.J. Harpell, Monderator of La Presse Catholique Panamericaine, 1945. Inscribed on flyleaf, "Presented to the Church of the Annunciation, [Chippewa] by Jas. J. Harpell, in memory of his sister, Mrs. M.J. Hopkins, June 26, 1949." A sisal is a guide to the celebration of the mass. This particular missal includes R.C. Church calendars for 1945-1986. The book was returned to the family by the Church.

Notes:

*Source of supplied title:*

Title based on contents of series.

*Arrangement:*

Series arranged by archivist.

*Restrictions on Access:*

No restrictions on access.

Folder Listing:

Box	File #	Description	Dates
Series 3: Hopkins Family Records			
3	1	Ledger book	[1941-1961]

4	2	Missale Romanum Book	1945
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***Series 4: Erinsville Post Office. 1916-1973. – 6 cm of textual records.***

Scope and Content

The Erinsville Post office was located in the General store operated by the Hopkins Family. The Series consists of ledgers recording what mail was received, where it was mailed from, who it was for and the signature of the person picking up the letter.

Notes:

*Source of supplied title:*

Title based on contents of series.

*Arrangement:*

Series arranged by archivist.

*Restrictions on Access:*

No restrictions on access.

Folder Listing:

Box	File #	Description	Dates
Series 4: Erinsville Post Office			
3	1	Ledger of registered letters	1916-1933
3	2	Ledger of registered letters	1933-1945
4	3	Ledger of registered letters	1946-1954
4	4	Letter to Michael Edward Hopkins re Postmastership	Aug. 25, 1949
4	5	Correspondence regarding Postmastership	1932-1973

***Series 5: History of Erinsville Parish Manuscript. [1932-1939]. – 12.5 cm of textual records.***

Scope and Content

This draft of a local history, compiled by Lillian Hopkins of the Catholic Women's League, was never published. In 1932, Lennox and Addington was experiencing the Great Depression, and the R.C. Church deemed it inappropriate to divert funds to a book. IN 1939, Lillian Hopkins offered the church a much edited and abbreviated version, but we can find no evidence that this was ever printed either. Lillian Hopkins was the sister of James J. Harpell, Moderator of the La Presse Catholique. She died in 1949. A number of elderly residents of the Erinsville area contributed to the compilation of the manuscript. Unfortunately, with the exception of a few letters at the end of the files, the sources of individual anecdotes are not identified. Series consists of research notes, compiled manuscript and abbreviated manuscript written by Lillian Hopkins.

Notes:

*Source of supplied title:*

Title based on contents of series.

*Arrangement:*

Series arranged by archivist.

*Restrictions on Access:*  
No restrictions on access.

Folder Listing:

Box	File #	Description	Dates
Series 5: History of Erinsville Parish			
5	1	Research notes – Ballachack	[1932]
5	2	Research notes – Churches and Cemeteries	[1932]
5	3	Research notes – Erinsville Village	[1932]
5	4	Research notes – Marlbank	[1932]
5	5	Research notes – Neville's Point	[1932]
5	6	Research notes – Priests and Sisters	[1932]
5	7	Research notes – Settlers	[1932]
5	8	Research notes – Stoco	[1932]
5	9	Research notes – Strathcona	[1932]
5	10	Research notes – Tamworth	[1932]
5	11	Research notes – "Interesting events and facts" Newspaper clippings	[1958-1964]
5	12	Manuscript – Preface and dedication (draft)	1932
5	13	Manuscript – Early Settlement (p. 1-45)	1932
5	14	Manuscript – White Lake Settlement (p. 46-79)	1932
5	15	Manuscript – Progress of Settlers (p. 114-121)	1932
5	16	Manuscript – Parish Priests (p. 122-152)	1932
5	17	Manuscript – Parish Priest con't. (p. 153-171)	1932
5	18	Manuscript – Rev. dr. Byrne (p. 189-216)	1932
5	19	Manuscript – Various Sisters (p. 197-226)	1932
5	20	Manuscript – The Choir (p. 227-239)	1932
5	21	Abbreviated version of manuscript – pt. 1	1939
5	22	Abbreviated version of manuscript – pt. 2	1939
5	23	Correspondence	[19-], 1932, 1939
5	24	Catholic Women's League – Erinsville subdivision	[19-]
5	25	Photograph – Erinsville R.C. Church School when in old building –N10075	[19-]